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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Afghanistan – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

December 9, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated September 8, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On October 23, an armed group attacked the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan located in the U.N. compound in the western city of Herat, killing two Afghan security officers. The U.N. Department of Safety and Security reported a 133 percent increase in security incidents directly affecting U.N. agencies in September 2010, compared to September 2009. A trend analysis of attacks against civilians and humanitarian agencies indicates that conflict has spread to traditionally calm regions in northwestern and western Afghanistan, further impeding humanitarian response efforts, according to the U.N.
- On September 18, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) held elections for the Wolesi Jirga, the lower level of parliament. According to the GIROA Independent Election Commission, more than 3.6 million people—nearly 40 percent of eligible voters—voted in the elections; participating voters increased from 35 percent in the 2009 presidential election, according to international media sources. In addition, insurgent attacks during the election decreased approximately 30 percent compared to attacks during the 2009 presidential election, according to U.S. government sources.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan	Approximately 319,000	UNHCR ¹ – September 2010
	Approximately 414,000	GIROA – January 2010
Refugees in Neighboring Countries	Approximately 2.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010
Returnees to Afghanistan since 2002	Approximately 5.6 million	UNHCR – July 2010

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Afghanistan\$1,455,927
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Afghanistan\$45,980,307
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance.....\$47,436,234

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, frequent natural disasters and conflict have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. Recurring natural disasters in Afghanistan include drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, which affect an average of 400,000 Afghans each year. As of September 2010, U.N. agencies estimated the displaced population at approximately 319,000 people, while the GIROA estimates the population at more than 400,000 people. Estimates fluctuate due to inconsistent humanitarian access and a high incidence of repeated and transitory displacements. Between June 2009 and September 2010, conflict displaced more than 120,000 people throughout Afghanistan, according to UNHCR.
- Frequent and protracted displacements result in humanitarian needs and also contribute to instability, including through the loss of working-age community members to urban areas and the addition of displaced persons to communities with scarce resources. In addition, insufficient government capacity to repair and expand infrastructure and provide basic services prevents sustainable returns to areas of origin and compounds community vulnerabilities countrywide.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian responses in Afghanistan by funding grantees to 1) rapidly respond to acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; 2) improve humanitarian indicators and build household economic resilience; and 3) enhance humanitarian coordination and data collection and analysis. In addition to current FY 2011 funding, nearly \$28 million in ongoing FY 2010 programming supports activities in nutrition, health, natural and technological risks, humanitarian coordination and information

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

management, economic recovery and market systems, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as support the delivery of emergency relief supplies.

WASH and Health

- As of October 2010, approximately 200,000 people affected by flooding throughout Afghanistan in July and August continued to require WASH services, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). While WASH needs have decreased overall, OCHA noted that populations displaced by the flooding remain vulnerable as winter conditions intensify.
- USAID/OFDA is improving sanitation and hygiene conditions among affected populations through programs that benefit more than 250,000 people. Nearly \$1.4 million of USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding continues to support WASH activities in Afghanistan, including construction of sanitation facilities for flood-affected and earthquake-affected populations, hygiene education, and provision of clean water supplies.
- The GIROA Minister of Health has reported concerns that migrant populations currently residing in Pakistan and Tajikistan may contract the polio virus and spread the disease upon return to Afghanistan. On October 2, the Ministry of Health, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) launched a three-day polio immunization campaign, targeting 7.8 million children in all 34 provinces, according to the U.N. OCHA reported that health workers were unable to reach nearly 110,000 children in southern Afghanistan due to insecurity.
- USAID/OFDA funding provided in FY 2010 continues to support WHO emergency health responses in Afghanistan.

Population Movements

- UNHCR reported that more than 104,000 of approximately 1.8 million Afghan refugees returned voluntarily to Afghanistan from Pakistan between March and November 2010—a significant increase over the 54,000 refugees who returned during the same time period in 2009. Returning populations cited economic stress, flooding, and camp closures in Pakistan as reasons for returning to Afghanistan. In addition, UNHCR reported that approximately 8,000 of more than 1 million Afghan refugees returned from Iran between January 1 and November 7, 2010.
- UNHCR noted that 29 percent of populations returning from Pakistan choose to reside in informal settlements rather than return to areas of origin. Approximately 45,000 Afghans returning from Pakistan have settled in informal settlements in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar during the past several years, according to UNHCR.
- Conflict continued to displace populations in southern provinces of Afghanistan in late 2010. Following a joint international and national military operation in Kandahar Province in August, approximately 774 households, or approximately 4,640 individuals, fled Zhari, Panjwai, and Arghandab districts to the provincial city of Kandahar. In the neighboring province of Zabul, approximately 2,000 households, or 12,000 individuals, fled to Qalat City and areas within Shahjoy District, according to OCHA.
- Increasing insecurity in northern and western provinces of Afghanistan has caused population displacement in previously stable areas. Election-related violence displaced more than 200 households, or approximately 1,200 individuals, in the northern province of Kunduz during September, according to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. In October, conflict and tribal tensions displaced more than 1,200 individuals throughout Herat Province and more than 1,850 households, or approximately 11,000 individuals, in Faryab Province, according to OCHA. Approximately 6,000 individuals remained displaced as of early November.
- Nearly \$10.4 million in USAID/OFDA funding provided in FY 2010 continues to support the International Organization for Migration and Aga Khan Foundation efforts to pre-position and distribute emergency relief commodities to conflict and natural disaster-affected populations. In addition, FY 2010 funded programs continue to strengthen local community and non-governmental organization capacity to coordinate and respond to humanitarian emergencies, benefitting more than 56,000 people.

Agriculture and Food Security

- In October, USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that regional market disruptions resulting from a food export ban in Pakistan and decreased agricultural production in areas in Afghanistan had caused wheat prices to rise 31 percent since July. However, prices remained lower than the five-year average in most markets. Afghanistan will likely experience a 700,000-metric ton (MT) shortage of wheat in 2011, which commercial traders will work to fill through wheat imports from Kazakhstan, according to a GIROA Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock official.
- FEWS NET anticipates that regions with cereal surpluses will avoid acute food insecurity through March 2011, with the exception of Badakhshan Province. Internally displaced households in cereal-deficient regions of eastern, southern, and central Afghanistan may experience moderate- to high-level food insecurity during the January lean season due to decreased availability of food commodities and livelihood opportunities.
- Ongoing USAID/OFDA FY 2010 programming is improving food security for drought-affected populations in Nangarhar Province, benefitting more than 37,000 people. The \$1 million grant supports livelihood opportunities

- for vulnerable households through a cash-for-work program, increased coordination between local governments and community organizations on agricultural projects, and provision of agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools.
- USAID grantee the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has begun pre-positioning food commodities in preparation for increased needs during the winter season. As of November 2, WFP had transported more than 68 percent of planned winter food assistance to warehouses in Afghanistan and distributed more than 20 percent of winter food assistance to beneficiaries. WFP prioritizes areas that often become inaccessible due to winter snows. For example, WFP has positioned nearly all of the planned food assistance for Badakhshan Province and distributed nearly 70 percent of planned food assistance as of early November, according to OCHA.
 - To date in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided \$15 million to WFP to purchase approximately 12,800 MT of wheat locally to replace food commodities destroyed during August floods and an additional \$30 million in P.L. 480 Title II resources to assist WFP in pre-positioning food supplies ahead of the hungry season. In addition, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$1 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support a direct food distribution program for flood-affected populations in Ghor Province as part of the Emergency Food Security Program.

FY 2011 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ¹			
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (IMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,455,927
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,455,927¹
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE ²			
CRS	Emergency Food Assistance	Ghor Province	\$980,307
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
WFP	20,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$30,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$45,980,307
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2011			\$47,436,234

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 9, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/